

an outer cover layer molded on said inner cover layer, said outer cover layer comprising a relatively soft polymeric low flexural modulus ionomer resin having a flexural modulus of from about 1,000 to about 30,000 psi.

12. (Twice Amended) A multi-layer golf ball comprising:
a spherical core;

an inner cover layer molded over said spherical core, said inner cover layer comprising an ionomeric resin including at least 16% by weight of an alpha, beta-unsaturated carboxylic acid having a modulus of from about 15,000 to about 70,000 psi;

an ionomeric outer cover layer molded over said spherical intermediate ball to form a multi-layer golf ball, the outer layer comprising a blend of i) a sodium or zinc salt of copolymer having from 2 to 8 carbon atoms and an unsaturated monocarboxylic acid having from 3 to 8 carbon atoms, and ii) a sodium or zinc salt of a terpolymer of an olefin having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, acrylic acid and an unsaturated monomer of the acrylate ester class having from 1 to 21 carbon atoms, said outer cover layer having a modulus in a range of about 1,000 to about 30,000 psi and a Shore D hardness of from about 20 to about 40.

REMARKS

In the Office Action of February 7, 2000, the Examiner expressed concerns over previously submitted evidence concerning the commercial success of Spalding's Strata™ golf balls.

Claims 1-8 and 12-16 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Claims 1-8 and 12-16 were also provisionally rejected for obviousness-type double patenting.

Claims 1-5, 13, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the U.S. Patent No. 4,431,193 to Nesbitt in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,222,739 to Horiuchi et al.